

**To:** All Providers Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program  
**From:** Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*  
**Date:** August 28, 2023  
**Re:** ALF Waiver Providers: Upcoming Prior Authorization and Rate Changes

---

This provider bulletin is being issued to notify Nebraska Medicaid assisted living facility (ALF) providers participating in the Aged and Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury Waivers of prior authorization and rate changes **effective September 1, 2023**.

### Prior Authorization Changes

The Department of Health and Human Services division of Developmental Disabilities is in the process of transitioning to a Single Case Management System (Therap). For authorizations with an effective date of September 1, 2023, prior authorizations will be entered into Therap by Service Coordinators.

Leading up to the change, ALF providers will receive updated service authorizations for waiver participants who are eligible for assisted living services. ALF providers will also receive a copy of previous prior authorizations that will close on August 31, 2023.

Under this new practice, all diagnosis codes will be set to ICD-10 for assisted living services. In addition, all authorizations will not exceed 12 months at a time. This change will align with the participant's Person-Centered Plan year, standard business practices, and system functionality.

The following language changes will be made during this transition:


- **Admission Date:** (previously called Service Begin Date) is when the participant moved into the ALF regardless of when the waiver starts.
- **Service From Date:** (previously called Waiver Payment Effective Date) is the beginning date of the service authorization.
- **Service To Date:** (previously called Service End Date) reflects when the authorization ends typically the last date of the participant's waiver year.

Once the new authorization practice is implemented, no changes in ALF billing should occur. At this time, submitting claims will follow the same billing practice. Waiver participants will continue to receive timely and adequate notice if they no longer meet the eligibility requirements for the waiver.

### Rate Changes

Effective September 1, 2023, the monthly room and board rate for ALF will be adjusted from \$850 to \$839, as a result of [LB227](#). The room and board rate will be reviewed again when the Social Security Cost of Living Allocations change on January 1, 2024.

Also effective September 1, 2023, the 3% legislative appropriation rate increase for ALF providers will be implemented. Moving forward, legislative appropriations will be applied in July instead of January to align with the new State Fiscal Year.



Fee schedules can be found online at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Provider-Rates-and-Fee-Schedules.aspx>.

More information can be found online at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/AD-Provider.aspx>.

If you have questions regarding the rate changes for assisted living providers, please contact Stephanie Ourada MacKenzie via email at: [Stephanie.OuradaMacKenzie@nebraska.gov](mailto:Stephanie.OuradaMacKenzie@nebraska.gov).

If you have questions regarding the prior authorization changes in Therap, please contact Karen Houseman via email at: [Karen.Houseman@nebraska.gov](mailto:Karen.Houseman@nebraska.gov).

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.